

# The Elder Monthly.

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Vol. 2.

April, 1907

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DEVOTED TO THINGS  
NUMISMATIC  
ARCHAEOLOGIC  
PHILATELIC  
HISTORIC  
ANTIQUE, &C.



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# The Elder Monthly

THOMAS L. ELDER, *Editor*

VOL. II

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## Editorials

The present owner of the finest collection of the United States cents of the year 1794 is E. Gilbert, Esq., a well-known Numismatist and glass manufacturer of this city. Mr. Gilbert's knowledge of this class of coins is evidenced by the fact that he is able to tell the Hays numbers of most of them simply at sight. He was the discoverer of the "Gilbert" variety. Besides this, Mr. Gilbert is an expert on the well known Jackson political and hard times tokens.

The Duke of Abruzzi; the daring Italian Arctic explorer, is an enthusiastic numismatist, and spends much time over his coins.

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The Bechtler gold coins have taken rapid jumps forward in price recently. The \$5 pieces which a few years ago were selling for around \$10 apiece are now bringing as much as \$35 apiece. It is understood that Mr. Hidden received \$1,000 for the specimens of this coinage which he sold about a year ago.

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It is the intention of Mr. Elder to hold two public auctions, (the 11th and 12th) before the summer is upon us. This will make a total of four sales, held since February 20th last. Coin collecting seems to be booming, and the absorbing power of the present market is quite remarkable.

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Henry C. Miller, Esq., a well-known numismatist, of this city, who as usual, has been sojourning in Europe during the winter, is again among us. Mr. Miller reports having had a pleasant trip through Egypt.

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Mr. Edward T. Newell, one of the most advanced numismatists in our midst, and an apt student of ancient and oriental languages, is finishing his senior year at Yale college.

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### Commemoration

The Council of the New York Academy of Sciences has decided to commemorate in fitting manner the two hundredth anniversary of the birth of the great Swedish naturalist Linnæus. The anniversary falls on Thursday, May 23, and will be celebrated by exercises which will begin in the morning at the American Museum of Natural History with addresses and an exhibition of the animals, minerals and rocks known to science in the time of Linnæus; will continue in the afternoon at the Botanical Garden and Zoological Park in Bronx Park with addresses and suitable exhibits of plants and animals and the dedication of the Linnæus Bridge, and will be concluded in the evening with simultaneous exercises at the Museum of the Brooklyn Institute and at the New York Aquarium in Battery Park. The scientific societies of the world will be invited to participate in the celebration.

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## The Face On The Cent.

Mrs. Sarah Longacre Keen, who lived and died in Philadelphia, came nearer being the queen of the American mint than any woman who ever lived. With the exception of Queen Victoria, whose image was engraved on every coin of the British and Indian empires, Mrs. Keen was first in the number of her metal photographs. Her face as a girl of twelve summers is to be seen on every American cent issued since 1836 from Uncle Sam's coin factory.

It is usually assumed that the face on the head side of the copper is that of an Indian, but a close look will reveal a Saxon profile. Just borrow a cent and look at it. The setting is that of an Indian.

Between 1828 and 1840 James Barton Longacre was chief engraver in the United States mint in Philadelphia. In 1835 a competition was opened for sketches and engravings for the new copper cent that was to be issued and which has since been in service. There were over a thousand designs offered. The prize was a good one. Longacre racked his brain for some original and singular design that would strike the judges, but for months he failed to satisfy himself.

One morning a number of Indians, with their chief, who had been to pay their respects to the great white chief in Washington, came to the city and were shown through the mint. They were introduced to the white chief's picture maker, who was just then showing his young daughter Sarah the great concern. The old chief was attracted by the sweet faced maiden and her interest in his feathers and paint. She childishly wondered how she would look in the feathered headgear. This was told the chief, who solemnly divested himself of the feathers and had them placed on the girl's head. The effect was so striking that the father took time to make a sketch of the picture, finishing it afterward for his own amusement.

At the last moment of the period given for sending in engravings he bethought himself of the possibility of the combination of Indian feathers and Saxon sweetness. He got it in, and much sport was made of the child at the time in the city because of the incident. The sketch passed through the seventh sifting and finally reached the last round. By one vote it won, and ever since Sarah Longacre's young face has served for the humblest of coins, than which no single coin in the world has such tremendous circulation.—Detroit News Tribune.

### The Gnadenhutzen Massacre and Death of Crawford

By THOMAS L. ELDER.

(Continued from our last issue).

The memories of the massacre of Gnadenhutzen were still fresh in the minds of the savage band which held Col. Crawford and Dr. Knight, and it was its intention to kill the white prisoners by the slowest and most horrible tortures that ~~an~~ fiendish hatred could invent. In a few minutes a large stake was fixed in the ground and piles of large hickory poles, about twelve feet in length were spread around it. Colonel Crawford's hands were then tied behind his back; a strong rope was produced, one end of which was fastened to the ligature, between his wrists, and the other to the bottom of the stake. The rope was long enough to permit him to walk around the stake several times and then return. After he was bound to the stake, the surviving Moravian Indians, a few of whom were in the party, were asked to come forward and take vengeance on the prisoner; but they had withdrawn from the awful scene, and their savage relatives stepped forward in their stead. Before the torture was commenced, Captain Pipe, the Delaware chieftain, addressed the Indians at some length, and in a very earnest manner. When he had finished his harangue, the warriors and squaws all joined in a hideous yell, and prepared for the feast of death that was to follow.

Meanwhile a carnage of slaughter was going on. The prisoners were all ordered to sit down. A number of squaws and boys fell on the five prisoners and tomahawked them. Among the prisoners was one John McKinley, formerly an officer in the 13th Virginia Regiment. An old squaw suddenly snatched a long knife out of a warrior's hands, and running to the spot where the wretched McKinley sat bound she deliberately cut off his head, and it was kicked around like a foot ball. The Indian boys often ran to Dr. Knight and Crawford and dashed the scalps in their faces. Then the savages began to beat Colonel Crawford with sticks and their fists. Knight also was given a severe beating. Simon Girty, the notorious white renegade, was in the party of Indians, as was Chief Wingemund. Before the fire was lit at the stake Crawford asked for his friend Wingemund. "I wish to see him," he said. This chief had formerly been a warm friend of Crawford's, and had entertained him in his own house. Under the circumstances Craw-



ford indulged a faint degree of hope that if he could see the chief his life might be spared. Wingemund was near by, in fact he had retired from the spot, that he might not witness the torture. He was sent for, however, and an interesting and affecting conversation followed between himself and the prisoner. This conversation was commenced by Crawford who asked the chief if he knew him. He replied that he believed he did, and asked, "Are you not Colonel Crawford?" "I am," replied the Colonel, and the conversation was continued—the chief seeming to grow very much embarrassed, and answering, "So! Yes! Indeed!"

Col. Crawford—"Do you not recollect the friendship that always existed between us, and that we were always glad to see each other?"

Wingemund—"Yes, I remember all this; and that we have often drunk together, and that you have been kind to me."

Col. C.—"Then, I hope the same friendship continues."

W.—"It would, of course were you where you ought to be, and not here."

Col. C.—"And why not here? I hope you would not desert a friend in time of need; now is the time for you to exert yourself in my behalf, as I should do for you were you in my place."

W.—"Col. Crawford, you have placed yourself in a situation which puts it out of my power, and that of others of your friends, to do anything for you."

Col. C.—"How so, Captain Wingemund?"

W.—"By joining yourself to that execrable man, Williamson, and his party. The man who, but the other day, murdered such a number of Moravian Indians, knowing them to be friends; knowing that he ran no risk in murdering a people who would not fight, and whose only business was praying."

Col. C.—"But, I assure you, Wingemund that had I been with him at the time that thus would not have happened.. Not I alone, but all your friends, and all good men, deprecate acts of his kind."

W.—"That may be, yet these friends, these good men, did not prevent him from going out again to kill the remainder of those in-offensive, yet foolish Moravian Indians. I say foolish, because they believed in whites in preference to us. We have often told them that they would one day be so treated, by those people who call themselves their friends. We told them there was no faith to be placed in what the white men said; that their fair promises were only intended to allure, that they might the more easily kill us, as they have done many Indians before they killed those Moravians."

Col. C.—“I am sorry to hear you speak thus. As to Williamson’s going out again, when it was known that he was determined on it, I went out with him to prevent him from committing fresh murders.”

W.—“This the Indians would not believe were I to tell them so.”

Col. C.—“And why would they not believe it?”

W.—“Because it would have been out of your power to prevent him doing what he pleased.”

Col. C.—“Out of my power? Have any Moravian Indian been killed or hurt since we came out?”

W.—“None. But you first went to their town, and finding it empty and deserted, you turned on the path toward us. If you had been in search of warriors only, you would have not gone thither. Our spies watched you closely. They saw you while you were embodying yourselves on the other side of the Ohio. They saw you cross that river; they saw where you encamped at night; they saw you turn off the path to the deserted Moravian town; they knew you were going out of your way; your steps were constantly watched and you were suffered quietly to proceed until you reached the spot where you were attacked.”

Col. C.—(With emotion). “What do they intend to do with me?”

W.—“I tell you with grief. As Williamson, with his whole cowardly host ran off in the night at the whistling of our warriors’ balls, being satisfied that now he had no Moravians to deal with, but men who could fight, and with such he did not wish to have anything to do; I say, as he has escaped, and they have taken you, they will take revenge on you in his stead.”

Col. C.—“And there is no possibility of preventing this? Can you devise no way to get me off? You shall, my friend, be well rewarded, if you are instrumental in saving my life.”

W.—“Had Williamson been taken with you, I and some friends, by making use of what you have told me, might, perhaps, be instrumental in saving you; but as the matter now stands, no man would dare to interfere in your behalf. The King of England, were he to come to this spot with all his wealth and treasure, could not effect his purpose. The blood of the innocent Moravians, more than half of them women and children, cruelly and wantonly murdered, calls for revenge. The relatives of the slain, who are among us, cry aloud for revenge. The Shawnese, our grandchildren, have asked for your fellow prisoner (Dr. Knight), and on him they will take revenge. All the nations connected with us, cry out Revenge! Revenge! The Moravians, whom you went to destroy, having fled instead of avenging their brethren,



the offense has become national, and the nation itself is bound to take revenge."

Col. C.—"My fate is then fixed, and I must prepare to meet death in its worst form."

W.—"Yes, Colonel. I am sorry for it, but I cannot do anything for you. Had you attended to the Indian principle, that good and evil cannot dwell together in the same heart, so a good man ought not to go into evil company, you would not have been in this lamentable situation. You see now, when it is too late, after Williamson has deserted you, what a bad man he must be. Nothing now remains for you but to meet your fate like a brave man. Farewell, Colonel Crawford! They are coming. I will retire to a solitary spot."

On turning away from his friend, whom he was powerless to assist, it is said the old chief was affected to tears, and could never afterward speak of the incident without emotion. The moment the chief left the Colonel, a number of the savage rushed upon him and commenced the work of torture. During the torture Crawford was continually upbraided for the conduct of the whites at Gnadenhutzen. They reproached him for having come against them with the worst kind of murderers—such as the Indians had not among their number. "Indians," they said, "kill their enemies, but not their friends. When once they have stretched forth their hand, and given that endearing name, they do not kill. But how was it with the believing Indians on the Muskingum? You professed friendship for them. You hailed and welcomed them as such. You protested they should receive no harm from you." In such vein the Indians continued to taunt Crawford. There was further circumstance against this unfortunate man, which enraged the Indians to a high degree. It was reported that the Indian spies sent out to watch their movements, on examining a camp which Crawford and Williamsou had left, west of the Ohio, had found on trees peeled for the purpose, the words, written with coal or other mineral substances,—"No quarters to be given to any Indian, whether man woman or child."

Colonel Crawford, seeing Simon Girty was present, called out to him and asked if the Indians intended to burn him. Girty replied in the affirmative. The Indian men then took up their guns and shot powder into the Colonel's body, from his feet as far up as his neck. Knight states not less than seventy loads were discharged upon his naked body. They then crowded about him and must have cut off his ears,

as when the throng had dispersed a little Knight saw blood running from both sides of his head.

The fire was now lighted about six or seven yards from the post to which the Colonel was tied. It was made of small hickory poles, burnt through in the middle, each of the poles remaining about six feet in length. The boys snatched the burning hickory poles and applied them to his flesh. As fast as he ran around the stake to avoid one party of tormentors, he was promptly met at every turn by others with burning poles, red hot irons and rifles loaded with powder only. Crawford's body became blackened and blistered in a terrible manner. The Indians stuck his body full of dry, sharp sticks, until he looked like a porcupine. They set fire to these sticks and laughed to see how they blazed and crackled around his naked body. The squaws would take up a quantity of coals and hot ashes and throw them upon his body, so that soon he had nothing but fire to walk upon. In this extremity of his agony the unhappy Colonel called aloud to Girty, in tones that rang through Knight's brain with maddening effect: "Girty! Girty! shoot me through the heart! Quick! Quick! Do not refuse me!" "Don't you see I have no gun, Colonel" replied the monster, bursting into a loud laugh, and then turning to an Indian beside him, he uttered some brutal jests upon the naked and miserable appearance of the prisoner. Girty then went up to Doctor Knight and bade him prepare for death. He said however, that Knight was not to die in that place, but to be burnt at the Shawanese towns. He swore "by G—d" that Knight need not expect to escape death, but should suffer it in all its enormities. Colonel Crawford at this moment, was almost exhausted, and the terrible scene had now lasted for more than two hours. He walked slowly around the stake, spoke in a low tone, and earnestly besought the Almighty to look with compassion upon him, and pardon his sins. His nerves had lost much of their sensibility, and he no longer shrunk from the fire-brands, with which the savages incessantly touched him. Finally he sank in a fainting fit upon his face and lay motionless. Instantly an Indian sprang upon his back, knelt lightly upon one knee, made an incision with his knife upon the crown of his head, and clapping the knife between his teeth, tore the scalp off with both hands.

After this had been done, a withered hag approached with a board full of burning embers, and poured them upon the crown of Crawford's head now laid bare to the bone. The Colonel groaned deeply, arose and again walked slowly around the stake. The Indians continued

to torture Crawford for two hours longer, and continued to put burning sticks to him, but he was now almost insensible to pain. We have no further description of Crawford's torture as the Indian who had Knight in charge, took the Doctor to the house of Captain Pipe, about three quarters of a mile from the place of the Colonel's execution. Here he was bound all night. The next morning, June 12th, the Indian tied Knight and painted him black, and both set off for the Shawnese towns, about forty miles distant. They soon came to the place where the Colonel had been burnt. Knight states he saw the bones of Crawford lying amongst the remains of the fire, almost burnt to ashes. Knight supposed that after Crawford had died they laid his body on the fire. The Indian pointed to the ashes and told Knight that was his big Captain, and gave the scalp halloo. We have in a former number related the story of Knight's escape from his captor. Today a large, rude monument of stones marks the spot where Colonel Crawford met his awful end.

(The End.)

### Gold Dollars for Ornaments

"Got a gold dollar, have you?" said the jeweler. "Certainly, I'll give you something for it. It's worth a dollar to spend and a dollar and a half to sell. That's the fixed price for them, and practically any jeweler who makes use of them will give you \$1.50 apiece for as many as you happen to have about you.

"What do we use them for? Oh, in a variety of ways; for bangles and pins and ornaments of one sort and another. There are more of them used in this way than are taken up by collectors. Of course, there are certain dates that are worth more than the regular market price for collectors. The war year issues, for instance, 1863, '64 and '65, bring from \$2.50 to \$5, according to condition. There are other dates that bring still higher prices. But for our purpose one date is as good as another, and a gold dollar is 'as good as gold' for \$1.50 at any time.

"Yes, they are growing scarcer all the time, of course. The government stopped coining them some six years ago, but I believe that something like 19,000,000 or 20,000,000 of them had been put into circulation up to that time, so that there are still a good many tucked away in old pocketbooks and carried as pocket pieces."—Providence Journal.

## Our Fifteen Rarest Coins.

BY E. H. ADAMS.

Dealers say that the fifteen rarest American coins are easily worth a total of \$16,000. Here are the fifteen:

First may be placed the New York doubloon, coined in this city in 1787 by Ephraim Brasher, a jeweller. This coin has a record price of only \$505, but many experts regard it as the scarcest of all the American issues, and believe that if one were offered for sale today it would bring \$3,000 and perhaps more.

Only five of these coins are definitely known, one being in the cabinet of coins in the Philadelphia Mint and the rest in private collections. The doubloon is the only gold coin of American coinage struck prior to the opening of the United States Mint in 1795.

The doubloon shows in the foreground the sun rising beneath a range of mountains, the sea at their foot. Beneath is the word "Brasher," while encircling the whole device is the inscription "Nova Eboraca Columbia Excelsior." The reverse has an eagle, on his breast bearing a United States shield, which is surstamped by a punch "E. B." Thirteen stars are above the head.

In the right talon is held an olive branch, while in the left is a bunch of arrows. A wreath of olive leaves encircles the central device, around this being the motto "Unum E Pluribus." The coin weighs 411½ grains, and its intrinsic value is about the same as that of the Spanish doubloon, \$16.

The next most valuable coins are the half eagles dated 1815 and 1822, which are worth respectively \$2,000 and \$2,165.

The 1804 dollar, which is fourth on the list, has a record price of \$2,000. It is so well known that it hardly requires description.

The fifth coin is the Washington cent of 1791, struck in gold. One thousand dollars is a low estimate of its value.

The cent was a pattern submitted for adoption by the United States Government at the beginning of operations of the Mint. The design was not accepted, but one specimen was struck in gold; that is, so far as known, only one was struck, though there may be others laid away and forgotten, and this coin now ranks among the great rarities.

On the obverse is a bust of Washington, surrounded by the words, "Washington President." Below is the date, "1791."

On the reverse is a large eagle with outstretched wings, bearing



upon its breast a United States shield, with a number of arrows in the right talon and a sprig of olive in the left. At the top of the coin, between the expanded wings of the eagle, which fill almost the entire field are the words, "One Cent."

Ranking with this coin in point of rarity is the Washington half dollar of 1792, struck in gold. This is supposed to have been struck as a compliment to George Washington and to have been carried by him as a pocket piece, as it shows some signs of wear. It sold for \$500 in 1875.

It shows the bust of Washington in military uniform on the obverse. The inscription reads "Washington President," the date, "1792," below.

On the reverse is a rather small eagle with expanded wings. Around the whole device is "United States of America." Between the points of the wings are thirteen stars. One thousand dollars is a conservative estimate of the value of this coin, but it is practically unobtainable.

The Nova Constellatio series comes next in the list of great American rarities, with the 1,000 mill pieces ranking seventh, the 500 mill pieces eighth and the 100 mill pieces ninth. These three coins, which are dated 1783, were sold in a set some years ago for \$1,350, but would bring very much more now.

They were all struck in pure silver, being the forerunners of our fifty, twenty-five and ten cent pieces. It is supposed that they were designed by Gouverneur Morris of New York and originally coined as pattern pieces for a new United States coinage. They were found in the desk of Charles Thompson, first secretary of Congress, after his death.

The first two coins are known as the mark and the quint. The design of all three pieces is similar, showing an eye in the centre of thirteen points, these points intersecting a circle of thirteen stars. The legend is "Nova Constellatio."

The reverse shows a wreath enclosing the letters "U.S.," and the mark has "1,000" in the centre of the wreath. The quint has a similar reverse with the exception that in the centre is "500" while the ten cent piece has "100."

Many Nova Constellatio cents were coined and circulated, and they are very plentiful and not highly valued.

There is in existence one other specimen of the quint with an ob-

verse somewhat different from the one just described, which is worth every bit as much.

The Massachusetts Good Samaritan shilling, credited to New England, is well up in the list of our most valuable coins, the only specimen known having brought \$650. This shows the Good Samaritan attending a fallen traveler by the roadside, a horse and tree in the background. There is the inscription "Masachvsets." The reverse has "1652 XII.," within a circle of dots, and "In New England Ano."

The Lord Baltimore penny is worth \$550. This is the only coin of the denomination of the series of pieces struck by Cecil Calvert in the seventeenth century for Marylanders, and it came very near getting him into trouble, for on account of this issue he was summoned to appear before the Council in London to answer the charge of usurping the royal prerogative in issuing colonial money.

The other denominations were the shilling, sixpence and groat, or fourpence. The latter three denominations are worth from \$30 to \$50 each.

The reverse of the penny shows a ducal coronet on which, standing upright, are two masts, each bearing a flying pennant. The legend is "Denarivm Terre-Mariæ."

The obverse shows the bust of Lord Batilmore in profile, slightly draped, facing to the left. Around this is the inscription "Cæcilvs Dns. Terre-Mariæ, &c."

While this penny has a record price of \$550, still it is probable that it would bring more than \$1,000 if offered for sale. This one specimen originally came from England and was sold at the auction of the Mickley collection in Philadelphia for \$370. At a subsequent sale it brought \$550.

Twelfth in the list comes the Washington New Jersey cent, which has a record price of \$600, but is easily worth more than \$1,000. It is unique. It shows the words "Gen. Washington" around the bust of the patriot. On the reverse is the shield always borne by the New Jersey cents, surrounded by the motto "E Pluribus Unum."

This coin was originally sold for a few cents to a Philadelphia dealer among a lot of old copper coins, and it was not until close examination that the dealer found that for a trifle he had come into the possession of the rarest copper coin ever issued in this country.

The Continenal Currency dollar should rank next. This was the first silver coin struck by authority of the Colonial Government. On the obverse it bears the Franklin motto "Mind Your Business" and



the word "Fugio." The device shows the rays of the sun shining upon a sun dial.

Around the central device are the words "Continental Currency." On the reverse are thirteen connected links, in each one of which is the name of one of the original thirteen Colonies.

This coin is very similar in pattern to the Fugio cents of the same year, which were also authorized by the United Colonies. A specimen of the Continental dollar in silver now worth \$500.

A New York cent struck in 1787 follows. This shows an Indian holding a tomahawk in his right hand, a bow in his left, while on his back is a quiver. Around this is the inscription "Liber Natus Libertatem Defendit."

On the reverse are the arms of the State of New York. An oval shield bears the sun rising behind a range of mountains, the sea in the foreground. At the right of the shield stands Justice with scales and sword, at the left is Liberty with a staff.

An eagle stands above upon a globe with outstretched wings. The inscription is "Excelsior." The coin is worth in the neighborhood of \$500.

The Confederate half dollar winds up the list of fifteen rarities. Of these there are only four known. The record price for this coin is \$870. These were the only pieces of metallic currency struck by authority of the Confederate Government.

When the Confederates seized the New Orleans Mint in 1861 they at once laid plans for a distinct coinage. Dies were made for a fifty cent piece. For some reason the dies were not suitable for the regular coinage press, so four pieces were struck on an old screw press.

The obverse is the same as that of the regular United States half dollar of the year 1861, but the reverse shows a Liberty cap, underneath being a beehive. This is surrounded by the inscription "Confederate States of America."—New York Sun.

### Meaning of Names of Coins.

The florin—one of the most famous of modern coins—originated in Florence. Some say that it gave the name to the city, while others assert that it was first so called because it had on it a fleur de lis—from the Italian florone or "flower"—for the same reason that an English silver piece is called a "crown," or certain gold pieces in France indifferently a "Napoleon" or a "Louis," or the ten-dollar gold pieces in America an "eagle."

For several hundred years, and down to a recent date, money was coined at from twenty-five to thirty different cities in France that had inherited the privilege. Now all French money is coined at the Paris mint.

Few French gold pieces are, however, in circulation except those bearing the head of Napoleon III, and silver pieces of the same coinage are almost as plentiful. French silver coins wear admirably, and pieces of the reign of Charles X, Louis XVIII and Napoleon I are very common.

The standard coins of the Continent are: In France, the franc; in Spain, the peseta; in Italy, the lire; in Holland and Austria, the florin; in Germany, the mark; in Russia, the ruble.

Belgium and Switzerland use the French name for the piece of twenty sons. Each of these pieces is, like the American dollar, divided into one hundred parts, called kopec in Russia, pfennig in Germany, kreutzer in Austria, cent in Holland, and in Italy, France and Spain by the word meaning hundredth.

The word shilling is of German derivation, like penny, which come from the German "pfennig."

The word crown comes from the image placed on the coin.

The name franc was given by King John, who first coined these pieces in 1660. They bore the motto "Le Roi Frank" (King of the Franks), and were of two kinds, one representing the king on horseback, the other on foot.

The franc was formerly also called livre (pound), though the connection with any special weight is not evident. The name of the German coin, mark—meaning a weight of eight ounces—was formerly in general use in Europe. The name of the Italian coin that corresponds with the franc (lira) also means pound.

The coins in present use in Spain have their names from other sources. The five-peseta piece, which corresponds with the American

dollar, is called escudo (shield). Peseta—the name of the small coin representing the monetary standard—means simply “little piece.”

Ruble is from the word meaning “to cut,” and was so called because originally the coin was made with an ornamental edge.

Ducat is a coin, either of silver or gold, struck in the dominions of a duke, the silver ducat being generally of the value of an American dollar, and the gold ducat is worth twice as much. Farthing means the fourth of a penny, and is derived from the Anglo-Saxon word *ferdha*, the fourth.

Sovereign is an English gold coin, on which an effigy of the head of the reigning king or queen is stamped, and it is equivalent to a one pound note, or about five dollars of our currency. The pound sterling was in Saxon times—about A. D. 671—a pound troy in silver, and a shilling was its twentieth part, consequently the latter was three times as large as it is at present.

Few persons have ever troubled themselves to think of the derivation of the word dollar. It is from the word *thal* (valley) and came into use in this way about three hundred years ago. There is a little silver mining city or district in Northern Bohemia called Joachimsthal, or Joachim's valley. The reigning duke of the region authorized this city in the sixteenth century to coin a silver piece which was called “Joachim-thaler.” The word “Joachim” was soon dropped, and the name “thaler” only retained. The piece went into general use in Germany and Denmark, where the orthography was changed to “daeler,” whence it came into English and was adopted by the Americans with still further changes in spelling.

The Mexican dollar is generally called “peastre” in France, and the name is sometimes applied to the United States dollar. The appellation is incorrect in either case, for the word piaster, or piastre, has for years been only applied with correctness to a small silver coin used in Turkey or Egypt, which is worth from five cents to eight cents.

Dime is derived from the Latin *decimus*, the tenth; from *decem*, ten; and cent is from the Latin *centum*, a hundred. Mill, which may be called an imaginary coin, is also from the Latin, *mille*, a thousand.



### The American Numismatic Society

No meeting of this society will be held during the month of April. The next meeting will be held on the third Monday evening in May.

Daniel Parrish, Jr., is generously adding pieces to the society's cabinets. His recent important donations include the very rare silver medal made in 1808, of the Washington Benevolent Society, of New York.

Other donations include the Semi-Centennial medal of the Anna Ottendorfer Dispensary, presented by August Zinsses, President of the German Hospital; a silver medal of Rudolph II, dated 1576, presented by Emile Rey; and a bronze medal on the Centenary of the Constitution of Poland, presented by Julius De Lagerberg.



### The Boston Numismatic Society

The regular meeting of the Society was held on the afternoon of April 5, in the directors' room of the Old State House, Dr. S. A. Green presiding. Dr. Green, Mr. Crosby, Mr. Marvin, Mr. Wheeler, Dr. Storer, Mr. Chase, and Mr. Wood were present. Mr. Clinton H. Stearns and Mr. William S. Appleton were elected to membership.

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## Numismatic Newspaper Clippings, Etc.

### BOY NUMISMATIST CAUGHT.

On a charge of stealing ancient coins from the home of Mrs. Frederick Billings, No. 279 Madison avenue, Andrew Brown, sixteen years old, of No. 15 East 125th street, was locked up in the East Thirty-fifth street police station last night. Ten coins valued at \$25 were found in his possession.

Brown, who is a plumber's helper was at work in the house. Mrs. Billings is away for the summer in Vermont.—New York Herald.

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### SHAH'S JEWEL COLLECTION.

Vienna, March 14.—A despatch from Teheran says that an inventory of the late Shah's jewels shows that he collected precious stones to the value of \$50,000,000.

His horde contains an unrivalled collection of diamonds. A belt, studded with diamonds, which the Shah was accustomed to wear on State occasions, weighs eighteen pounds and is valued at several million dollars. A wonderful silver vase, decorated with 100 emeralds, one so large that all the Shah's numerous titles are engraved on it; a sword with a diamond covered scabbard, valued at \$1,250,000; a square block of amber, containing 400 cubic inches, said to have been dropped from the skies in the time of Mohammed, are among that treasures the valuers found.—N. Y. Sun.

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